

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190413
ORIGIN SS-15

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APPROVED BY: ARA:LEN LEVINE

S/S-O:DPFOTENHAUER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190413

EXDIS FOR ASST. SEC. TODMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT PANAMA 5714 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CARACAS
10 AUG 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5714

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PN, VE

SUBJECT: THE BOGOTA MEETING AND CANAL TREATY

REF: CARACAS 7893

1. WE BELIEVE THAT A MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS
COULD BE USEFUL IN DEMONSTRATING TO CONGRESS LATIN AMERICA'S
SUPPORT. SUCH A MEETING AS THAT PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT
PEREZ, HOWEVER, POSES REAL PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE THAT
PROSPECT OF CASTRO'S PRESENCE WOULD PROBABLY QUEER THE
MEETING, AS IT DID THE AMPHICTYONIC CONFERENCE, AND WOULD
HARDLY BE HELPFUL IN THE CONGRESSIONAL CONTEXT. AN ABORTED
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EFFORT AT LATIN SOLIDARITY COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT HIS PROPOSAL SHOULD BE STUDIED
VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE WE RESPOND.

2. A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE--ONE WHICH MIGHT DO THE TRICK--
WOULD BE A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
UNDERLINE LATIN AMERICA'S POSITION. CASTRO WOULD THUS BE

EXCLUDED. A HIGH-LEVEL OAS MEETING MIGHT ALSO MAKE IT LESS
DIFFICULT FOR ANTAGONISTIC COUNTRIES SUCH AS MEXICO AND
CHILE TO ATTEND A MEETING FOR THIS PURPOSE. SUCH A SESSION
MIGHT BE HELD ANYWHERE--PANAMA, OR EVEN WASHINGTON IF THE
INTENT IS TO IMPRESS CONGRESS. IT COULD TAKE PLACE SOON
AFTER FORMAL SIGNING.
JORDEN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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